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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/809,085

03/25/2004

Naor Wainer

037/03962

7676

7590

09/03/2004

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EXAMINER

GABOR, OTILIA

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2878

DATE MAILED: 09/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/809,085

Applicant(s)

WAINER ET AL.

Examiner

Otilia Gabor

Art Unit

2878

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,11 and 12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3-10 and 13-19 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>03/25/2004</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement filed 03/25/2004 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2), which requires a legible copy of each U.S. and foreign patent; each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed. It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered.

Note: there are no copies present for the references under "FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS" AND "OTHER DOCUMENTS". The Examiner could not get to the references cited in the parent applications, thus copies for these references need to be supplied otherwise cannot be considered for their merit.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 2 is objected to because of the following informalities: there are two forms of spelling the word "motherboard" (one spelling should be picked and followed throughout the claims). Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

5. Claims 1, 2, 11, 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Spivey et al. (U. S. Patent 5,886,353).

Spivey et al. discloses an apparatus and method for connecting a two-dimensional planar array of pixelated detectors with processing circuits for processing the signals from the detectors, the apparatus comprising:

- a plurality of pixelated detector array 190 where each pixelated detector 183 provides a detector signal responsive to photons that are incident thereon
- a plurality of processing circuits 188 that receive the detector signals and provide processed signals responsive to the detector signals
- at least one printed circuit board 153 on which the processing circuits 188 are mounted and having conductors 182 thereon that carry the detector signals to the processing circuits 188, wherein the processing circuits 188 are mounted on the printed circuits board 153 at locations remote from the detectors 183

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- ribbon conductors 167 whereby the processing circuits 188 are electrically connected to a motherboard in the processor 20 where the conductors carry processed signals from processing circuits 188 to the motherboard.

See Figs. 15A, 15B, 17A, 17B.

Spivey et al. fails to specifically disclose that his imaging technique is used in a gamma camera system, however, since the present invention discloses merely the method of connection and the specifics of the connection between the pixelated detectors and the remote processing circuits without containing any limiting structure pertinent to a gamma camera, and since Spivey discloses an identical connection system as the one claimed, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the connecting method of Spivey et al. when the pixelated detector array is part of a gamma camera system since the system of Spivey is essentially the functional equivalent of the one presently claimed.

Regarding claim 11 Spivey fails to specifically disclose ASIC processing circuits, however, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have been motivated to use ASIC, for they are well known and conventionally used processing circuits in the field of radiation imaging.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 3-11, 13-19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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7. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: There is no evidence in the prior art claimed of a gamma camera with the structural limitations as claimed, namely, the presence of the heat insulating material situated between the pixelated detectors and the processing circuits where the insulating material and the pixelated detectors and processing circuits are spaced apart, as well as the presence of a specific air circulator, air cooler and heat pipes.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Otilia Gabor whose telephone number is 571-272-2435. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday between 9am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Porta can be reached on 571-272-2444. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Og
Otilia Gabor
AU 2878

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Otilia Gabor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "O" at the beginning.